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HB 3392 RELATING TO WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

Statement for House Committee on
Planning, Energy and Environmental Protection
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HB 3392 authorizes public acquisition of the Hawaii Kai Sewage Treatment Plant. The bill further authorizes that acquisition costs and costs of modifications deemed necessary to bring the plant into full compliance with State and Federal pollution control regulations shall be covered by monies from the state water pollution control revolving fund.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The persistent operational problem at the Hawaii Kai Sewage Treatment Plant reflect inadequacies in the basic plant design which will clearly require modification. At the very least, the ocean outfall must be extended to a depth comparable to that of other municipal outfalls on Oahu to bring initial dilution factors up to an acceptable level. Since the design inadequacies reflect a failure of the present private operators to implement technology which has been recognized as appropriate for a decade or more, we feel that costs of plant modifications should be shared by the current owners. We also feel that these costs should not simply be passed along to area residents in the form of increased sewerage assessments, but should be absorbed by those responsible for the plant's failure to achieve reasonable design parameters consistent with conventional technology.